

CLAIMS

1. The S gene for use in a method of treatment or diagnosis of the human or animal body.
2. A diagnostic test method for determining the susceptibility of a patient to psoriasis, comprising the steps of:
 - i) taking a sample from said patient;
 - ii) comparing the sequence of the S gene of said patient to that of an S gene causing a predetermined susceptibility to psoriasis; and
 - iii) correlating the results of comparison step (ii) to determine the susceptibility of said patient to psoriasis.
3. A diagnostic method according to claim 2, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a T nucleotide at position 619, a G nucleotide at position 1240 and a C nucleotide at position 1243.
4. A diagnostic method according to either one of claims 2 or 3, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a C nucleotide at position 619, a G nucleotide at position 1240 and a C nucleotide at position 1243.
5. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-5, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a C nucleotide at position 619, a C nucleotide at position 1240 and a T nucleotide at position 1243.

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6. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-5, comparison step (ii) comparing determining whether the S gene has a C nucleotide at position 618, a T nucleotide at position 1240 and a C nucleotide at position 1243.
7. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-6, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a C nucleotide at position 619, a T nucleotide at position 1240 and a T nucleotide at position 1243.
8. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-7, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a T nucleotide at position 619, a G nucleotide at position 1240 and a T nucleotide at position 1243.
9. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-8, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a T nucleotide at position 619, a T nucleotide at position 1240 and a C nucleotide at position 1243.
10. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-9, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a T nucleotide at position 619, a T nucleotide at position 1240 and a T nucleotide at position 1243.
11. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-10, comparison step (ii) comprising the step of performing PCR using discriminatory primers for nucleotide substitutions at positions 619, 1240 and 1243 and comparing the result to those obtained with an S gene causing a predetermined susceptibility to psoriasis.
12. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-11, comparison step (ii) comprising determining the sequence of the S gene at position 1236 and/or position 1215.

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13. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-12, comparison step (ii) comprising determining the sequence of the S gene at one or more of positions 9, 66, 614, 619, 722, 767, 971, 1118, 1215, 1236, 1243, 1331, and 1358.
14. A pair of PCR primers having the sequences of any one of the group of SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 5, 1 and 6, 2 and 5, 2 and 6, 1 and 7, 1 and 8, 3 and 5, 3 and 6, 4 and 5, 4 and 6, 3 and 7, 3 and 8, 4 and 7, 4 and 8, 1 and 9, 2 and 9, 1 and 10, 2 and 10, 3 and 9, 4 and 9, 3 and 10, 4 and 10.
15. A diagnostic test kit for determining the susceptibility of a patient to psoriasis, characterised in that it comprises at least one pair of PCR primers according to claim 12.
16. The use of a pair of PCR primers according to claim 14 in the manufacture of a diagnostic test kit for susceptibility to psoriasis.
17. The use of the S gene in the manufacture of a diagnostic test for psoriasis.
18. The use of the S gene in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of psoriasis.
19. A method of manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of psoriasis, characterised in the use of the S gene.
20. The corneodesmosin protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof for use in a method of treatment or diagnosis of the human or animal body.
21. A diagnostic test method for psoriasis, comprising the steps of:

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- i) taking a sample from a patient;
- ii) comparing the expression pattern of corneodesmosin protein in said sample to that of a control sample; and
- iii) correlating the results of comparison step (ii) to determine the presence of psoriasis in said patient.

22. A diagnostic test method for determining the susceptibility of a patient to psoriasis, comprising the steps of:

- i) taking a sample from a patient;
- ii) comparing the expression pattern of corneodesmosin protein in said sample to that of a control sample; and
- iii) correlating the results of comparison step (ii) to determine the susceptibility to psoriasis in said patient.

23. A diagnostic test method according to either one of claims 21 or 22, the step of comparing the expression pattern of corneodesmosin protein in said sample to that of a control sample comprising determining whether an epitope displayed by the expression product of a mutant S gene and not displayed by the expression product of a non-mutant S gene is present in said patient sample.

24. A diagnostic test kit for psoriasis or susceptibility to same, characterised in that it comprises antibody specific against corneodesmosin.

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25. The use of corneodesmosin or antibody specific against same in the manufacture of a diagnostic test kit for psoriasis or susceptibility to same.
26. The use of corneodesmosin or antibody specific against same in the manufacture of a medicament for treatment of psoriasis.
27. A method of manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of psoriasis, characterised in the use of corneodesmosin or antibody specific against same.